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FLOOR DEBATE

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we weren't sure if the bill was going to be successful. We didn't want to build up a whole lot of cash ahead of time and not have a place...a home for that money. We have a home for that money. We've been very successful with LB 536. We've built more plants than we initially thought were going to be built, so we do have a need for that money. Raising it from \$5 million probably isn't a big deal because what's going to be in place;; we're going to be taking that checkoff excise tax the whole time to meet the need. This would be if there would be some downturn and these plants wouldn't be built, but they are built. They are going to be in place. We're going to need this revenue stream that's in the original bill for the time period and we're going to probably need more money to fill up the hole. As Senator Baker talked about in upcoming legislation that it will address that underlying deficit. So the \$20 million from 15, and the raise on the bottom end probably won't make any difference on when the excise tax will be implemented. It will be implemented through the whole period of the bill. I thought the Nebraska preference was a good part of the bill. I'm not happy about taking it out in this amendment, the Baker amendment. I understand that these plants have already been contracted so it probably doesn't make any statement that would be causing any effect because it's already been done. But I would have rather had it kept in this bill so that in further bills we knew that as we spend public funds we ought to spend them on Nebraska labor if at all possible. Currently as the bill is with the committee amendments and with the Baker amendment, it's more of a technical bill that restricts and limits, gives some time lines so that you have to produce for 30 days instead of just that 1 day. It makes it so that it's a tougher hurdle to climb to be in the incentives that makes it so that there's most likely just four plants going to qualify and less likely that the still that Senator Bourne was talking about would qualify for these plants. And so I am in support of the Baker amendment with reservations and I'm in support of the Revenue Committee amendment.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Connealy. The Chair would now recognize Senator Kremer to be followed by Senators Hartnett, Baker, Beutler, Chambers, Bourne and Cunningham. Senator Kremer.